

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, ILO, IT

SUBJECT: ILO-ITALIAN PERM REP'S CONCERNS

1. PROF. ROBERTO AGO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE ILO, ON JANUARY 30 RAISED WITH LABOR ATTACHE HIS GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE OUTLOOK FOR THE ILO. HE REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO THE MOVEMENT CURRENTLY UNDERFOOT TO AMEND ART. 36 IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ALTER PERMANENTLY THE ILO'S TRADITIONAL FORMAT. PROF. AGO IS CONVINCED THAT THIS MOVEMENT, BEING PUSHED BY THE "THIRD WORLD," IS DESIGNED NOT ONLY TO ELIMINATE THE SPECIAL POSITION OF "THE TEN NATIONS" IN THE ILO BUT REPRESENTS A DIRECT THREAT TO THE TWO PILLARS OF THE ILO STRUCTURE: ITS LEGISLATIVE FUNCTION AND ITS TRIPARTITE NATURE. THE ADVOCATES OF THESE "REFORMS" WISH TO TRANSFORM THE ILO INTO MERELY ANOTHER AGENCY CONVEYING ASSISTANCE TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD. FURTHER, PROF. AGO SAID HE IS CONVINCED THAT, UNLESS STRONG STEPS ARE TAKE, THOSE ADVOCATING THE "REFORMS" WILL PREVAIL.

2. AGO SAID THE ONLY SALVATION IS FOR "THE TEN" TO WORK TOGETHER, AND ABOVE ALL, FOR THE U.S. AND THE USSR TO WORK IN TANDEM. HE FEELS THIS COULD ONLY COME ABOUT THROUGH US LEADERSHIP. IT IS HIS VIEW THAT THE USSR, AT BASE, IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE "REFORMS" SINCE THEY JEOPARDIZE SOVIET RIGHT TO VETO, ETC. HOWEVER, UNLESS AGREEMENT TO COOPERATE IN RESISTING THE IMPENDING MEASURES IS
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PROCURED, THE SOVIETS WILL GO ALONGS.

3. PROF. AGO FEELS THE SOVIETS CAN BE BOUGHT, AND THAT THE PRICE IS WORTH PAYING: SOVIET MEMBER SHIP IN THE EMPLOYERS' GROUP. HE HOPES THE US WILL TAKE THE LEAD IN STRIKING THE NECESSARY BARGAIN, AND WILL BEGIN TO DO SO BY THE OPENING OF THE GOVERNING BODY SESSION ON FEBRUARY 11. AGO SAYS THE ITALIAN EMPLOYERS GROUP WOULD BE AMENABLE TO THIS PLAN.

4. COMMENT: THE LABOR ATTACHE HAD SOUGHT OUT PROF. AGO, BOTH TO MEET HIM AND TO CONVEY THE DECISION OF THE USG TO BACK BLANCHARD FOR THE POST OF ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL (ROME'S 1406). AGO'S EX-POSITION OF THE ILO PROBLEM, AS HE SEES IT, AND HIS PROPOSED SOLUTION WERE VOLUNTEERED BY HIM AND WERE RECEIVED NON-COMMITTALY. PROF. AGO IS, OF COURSE, A VETERAN OBSERVER OF THE ILO SCENE. VOLPE

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